



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WSDA announces new manager for Seed Program

OLYMPIA – Dr. Fawad Shah, a scientist and researcher, has been selected as the new manager of the Washington State Department of Agriculture’s Seed Inspection program, which is headquartered in Yakima.

Shah begins his new job on March 15. He has an impressive background in agriculture and extensive seed-related experience, having worked as an assistant research officer, a teaching assistant, and a seed analyst and an assistant quality manager for a major commercial seed company. Most recently, he was a research associate at Mississippi State University.

Shah has both a bachelor’s of science and a master’s of science degree in Plant Breeding and Genetics. He also has a master’s of science degree in Business Administration along with a doctorate degree in Agronomy-Seed Technology.

“Dr. Shah is uniquely qualified for his new position,” said Bob Gore, head of the WSDA’s Commodity Inspection division, which includes the Seed Inspection program. “His dual educational disciplines in agronomy and computer science will be an asset to the program as it continues to move forward utilizing new technologies.”

The Seed Inspection program conducts pre-harvest field inspections and laboratory testing of agricultural, vegetable and flower seeds grown under the state’s seed certification program. It tests samples submitted by seed growers and companies to determine if they comply with purity and germination standards and to certify the seeds for domestic and international marketing. Washington is a leading seed-producing state.

The Seed Inspection program is the agency’s fourth largest program. Its \$1.6 million annual budget is entirely supported by fees collected from participants.

Shah will oversee 29 employees and the state’s only seed testing laboratory, located in Yakima.

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